

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman, Subcommittee on CJS
U.S. House of Representatives
H-301 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on CJS
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

As you prepare the fiscal year 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include language barring the Department of Justice from prosecuting those who comply with their state's medical marijuana laws. We believe such a policy is not only consistent with the wishes of a bipartisan majority of the members of the House, but also with the wishes of the American people.

Since 2014, the House of Representatives has consistently supported such language—first by a vote of 219-189 in 2014, and most recently by a vote of 242-186 in 2015. Since 2015, the Senate Committee on Appropriations has consistently supported identical language—first by a vote of 22-8 in 2015, and most recently by a vote of 21-8 in 2016. We believe that the consistent, bipartisan support for such protections against federal enforcement, combined with the fact that similar language has been in place since December 2014, make a strong case for including similar language in your base FY 2018 appropriations bill.

Because of parliamentary restrictions on what may be offered as a floor amendment to appropriations bills, the amendment has historically been narrowly structured. To provide the Department of Justice, states, and the residents of those states additional clarity and stability, we request that you include slightly modified language that reads as follows: *None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Justice may be used to enforce federal prohibitions involving the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes that are permitted by the laws of the state, the District of Columbia, or U.S. territory where the act was committed, or to prevent states, the District of Columbia, or U.S. territories from implementing their own laws that permit the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes.*

In closing, we reiterate our support for the inclusion of this limitation on the Department of Justice. We appreciate the difficult task before you and appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Dan Rostenkowski



Earl Blumenauer

Steve Cohen

John Monaghan

Jodie Spivey

Brin Higgins

Joel Medler

Leh Defayari

Diana Tetlow

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~~Don Young~~

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Ted Cruz (DUM (FL-03))

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Jo Partha